

REMARKS

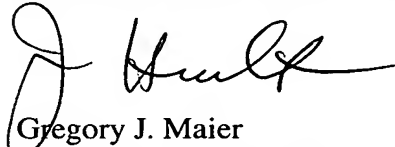
The foregoing amendments have been made for the purpose of amending the specification in the same manner as occurred in parent Application Serial No. 09/598,453, including the addition of claim language for the purpose of protecting that portion of the trocar which is separable from the distal portion 6 of the handle. More particularly, the proximal portion of the handle is, in the preferred embodiment, fixed to the penetrator of the trocar and these two members are thus replaceably insertable together within the distal portion of the handle. Accordingly, claims directed to the replaceable part have now been set forth in the present application. In addition, additional features described in the Summary of the Invention, including the fact that the blade may have a dull tip or a rounded edge have now been claimed so as to more fully protect Applicant's invention.

While not believed to be relevant to the claims now pending in the present application or the claims allowed in the parent application, submitted herewith is an information disclosure statement and a copy of the references listed therein.

In view of the foregoing, an early and favorable Office Action is believed to be in order and the same is hereby respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Amendment Filed

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IN THE SPECIFICATION

Page 12, please replace the paragraph beginning at line 3, with the following:

FIGURE 7 shows the guards 3 already completely retracted into the penetrator 13, and the knife edges 14 completely exposed. At that instant, the point of the knives begins to cut and penetrate at 21 into the outside tissue layer. As shown in Fig. 7, the cutting pathway of the cutting tip/knife edge is of a smaller diameter than the inner diameter of the cannula 2 such that the cut made by the blade results in a smaller lumen or bore than that of the cannula. At that time, the carbon dioxide gas is allowed to pressurize the inside of the penetrator 13, and while some gas may escape at first, the tissues around the tip will seal the flow until the cutting tip starts to emerge across the internal abdominal wall.

Page 13, please replace the paragraph beginning at line 5, with the following:

FIGURE 12 is a top view of the trocar showing some of the external parts as well as a partial broken view of some interior parts. The body of the handle is made out of plastic and has two main segments. The proximal segment 5 is designated to fit into the palm of the hand and has a proximal end of hemispherical shape with a depression of arcuate profile 9 at the top terminating at a flat surface 9a where the guard stem controls are located. Those controls are recessed into the flat depression 9a to prevent unwanted actuation, and include a double slot with vertical slots 8 and 8a into which is inserted a button 7 and its rectangular guiding shank 7a. The button 7 is capable of vertical and horizontal movement, the latter

movement being limited between arrows [7b and 7c] 7' and 7" as will be described later. The proximal segment 5 is assembled as an integral part of the penetrator system. Its distal end 51 forms the interface between the two segments of the handle.

IN THE CLAIMS

--51-85. (New).--